

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

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NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2055

UNCLAS PARIS 21050

E.O. 11652

TAGS: PFOR US FR

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT OF FRANCE-SOIR CLAIMS

USG UNHAPPY WITH FRENCH POLICIES

1. PEGGED TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF KENNETH RUSH'S NOMINATION AS AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE, ARTICLE IN SEPTEMBER 5 ISSUE OF FRANCE SOIR BY WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT SEGONZAC ARGUES FOR EARLY MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENTS FORD AND GISCARD AS ONLY WAY TO DISPEL ALLEGED CLOUDS IN FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS. SEGONZAC CITES FOLLOWING FOUR PROBLEMS AS BASIS FOR HIS CONCLUSION THAT RELATIONS ARE DETERIORATING AFTER HONEYMOON THAT FOLLOWED GISCARD'S ELECTION.

A. ALLEGED USG PIQUE AT GISCARD'S STATEMENT IN LATTER'S AUGUST 27 SPEECH THAT PRESIDENT FORD FAILED TO MENTION EUROPE IN HIS INITIAL ADDRESS TO CONGRESS. USG CONSIDERS GISCARD'S STATEMENT INACCURATE IN VIEW OF PRESIDENT FORD'S EARLY MEETINGS WITH NATO AMBASSADORS COLLECTIVELY, AND FRENCH AMBASSADOR PRIVATELY.

B. ALLEGED USG UNHAPPINESS AT LIFTING OF FRENCH ARMS EMBARGO TO MIDDLE EAST BATTLEFIELD COUNTRIES WHICH COULD UPSET DELICATE BALANCE OF FORCES IN THE REGION AND MAKE US MEDIATING EFFORTS ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT.

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C. COMPETITION FOR SALE OF REPLACEMENT FIGHTER

AIRCRAFT TO BELGIUM, NORWAY, HOLLAND AND DENMARK. USG ALLEGEDLY ACCUSING GOF OF RESORTING TO UNFAIR METHODS TO PRESSURE FOUR GOVERNMENTS TO SELECT THE MIRAGE.

D. ALLEGED USG FEELING THAT GOF TAKING ADVANTAGE OF, OR POSSIBLY EVEN ENCOURAGING ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING IN GREECE IN ORDER TO ENHANCE FRENCH ARMS SALES.

2. EVEN THOUGH GOF HAS REJECTED THESE ALLEGATIONS, USG SEES GISCARD REGIME REGRESSING TO GAULLIST FOREIGN POLICY, ACCORDING TO SEGONZAC. ONLY A PERSONAL CONTACT BETWEEN THE TWO NEW HEADS OF STATE COULD PREVENT SUCH MISUNDERSTANDINGS FROM CONTINUALLY POISONING FRANCO-AMERICAN RELATIONS SEGONZAC ARGUES.
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